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Note verbale dated 31 May 2005 from the Permanent Mission of Mauritania to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

The Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania to the United Nations presents its compliments to Her Excellency Ambassador Ellen Margrethe Løj, President of the United Nations Security Council for May 2005, and has the honour to transmit to her the information communicated by His Excellency Mr. Mohamed Vall Ould Bellal, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, to all accredited Ambassadors in Nouakchott on the recent arrests made among the ranks of the Islamic extremists in Mauritania, whereby he explained the following points:

1. These arrests furnished concrete information on Mauritanian youth who have received training under the supervision of the Algerian Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat (GSPC), some of whom have returned to the country, while others are still in training outside its borders. This involves (with jihadists) a relationship to the international terrorist network through cells connected with the Al-Qaida organization;

2. Within the same framework, information obtained from those arrested gave rise to suspicions concerning certain mosques. Those suspicions were borne out by inspections conducted at those mosques, where tapes calling for jihad were seized, with calls for killing and an "Islamic revolution" and training sessions in civilian guerrilla warfare, such as training in techniques for targeting stationary and moving targets and techniques for eluding pursuit by police;

3. Definite evidence was collected on the entry of enormous funds over the past few years for the purpose of financing the activities of networks belonging to this extremist Islamic movement.

The Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania to the United Nations requests Ambassador Løj, as President of the Security Council, to have this note circulated as a document of the Council.

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